



Dear Families,

In School Year 2014-2015, our students took the PARCC test for the first time. Because the PARCC is a brand new test, aligned to the Common Core State Standards, I want to take a minute to explain to you what the results mean and how we can use the results to work together to help your child prepare for the future.

Washington, DC used the DC-CAS tests to measure student performance for the past seven years. The CAS was a useful test and it helped demonstrate that students across DCPS were making real progress. During the years we used CAS, we saw improvements in student achievement in every part of the city.

However, too many of our students were still not ready for college or a career when they graduated from high school. The CAS showed we were making progress, but it also showed that we weren't setting the goals for our students high enough.

The PARCC test is very different from the CAS. Your child took the test on a computer. The test required critical thinking skills and writing. Most importantly, the test was built to give us all better information about the skills students need to be ready for college and a career. The PARCC results show us that we still have work to do to make sure all children are prepared for the future. I welcome this feedback because I am passionate about ensuring that our schools serve every student in every part of the city well.

No matter how your child, or your child's school, did this year, I want you to know that we are working hard to ensure that they can rise further. All the investments we are making, from hiring the very best teachers to offering students more advanced courses, will help your child continue to grow.

The PARCC test is important, but keep in mind that it is just one test. We will not look at any one test to get a complete picture of your child. Instead, we will look at grades, teacher reports, attendance, student engagement, and many other factors so that we can work with you to prepare your child for a bright future.

I am confident that our PARCC results, and our students' future prospects, will only grow from here. Thank you for being our partners in your child's education. We are DCPS, and we can do this!

With appreciation,

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor, DC Public Schools